



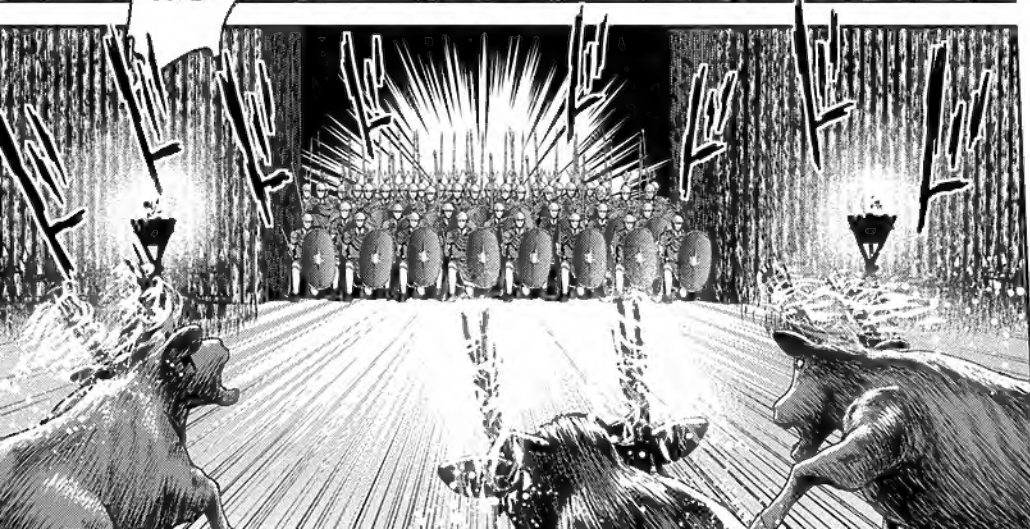
...OXEN!?



EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT MINOTAURS, WE'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT A HERD OF STAMPEDING ANIMALS HEADING RIGHT FOR US...

J-JUST A HERD OF OXEN, HE SAYS...

H-HERE THEY COME!

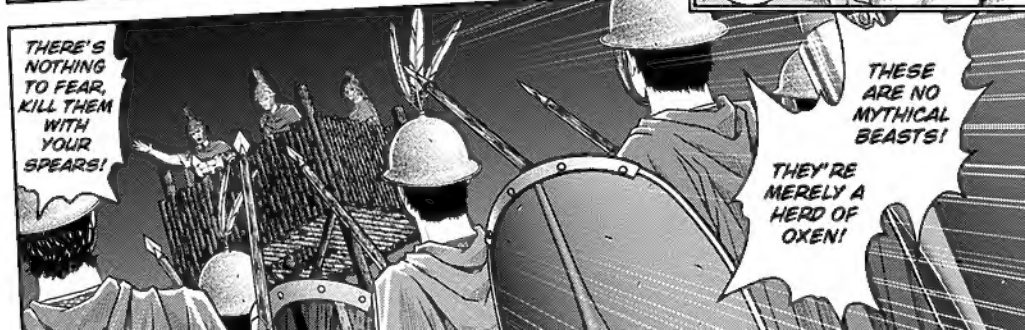


THEY USED FLAMING OXEN... SO THESE WERE THE LIGHTS THAT SURROUNDED THE HILL!?



HAH, WHAT'S THIS? THEY WERE TERRIFIED BY MERE OXEN?

FLAMING OXEN...



THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR, KILL THEM WITH YOUR SPEARS!

THESE ARE NO MYTHICAL BEASTS!

THEY'RE MERELY A HERD OF OXEN!





AND YOU
CONSIDER
YOURSELF
HEAVY
INFANTRY
OF
ROME!?

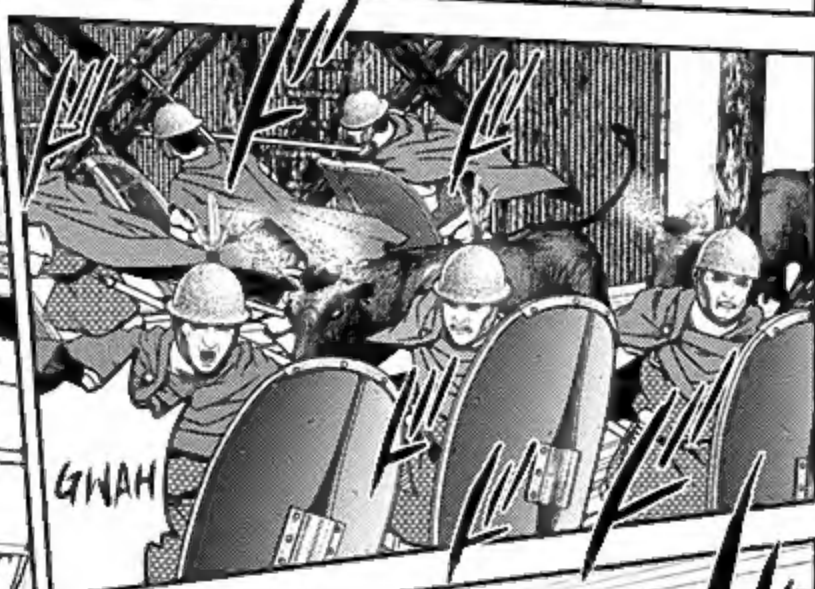


W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING!?

WATCH
OUT THAT
YOU DON'T
HIT ONE
OF OUR
OWN!

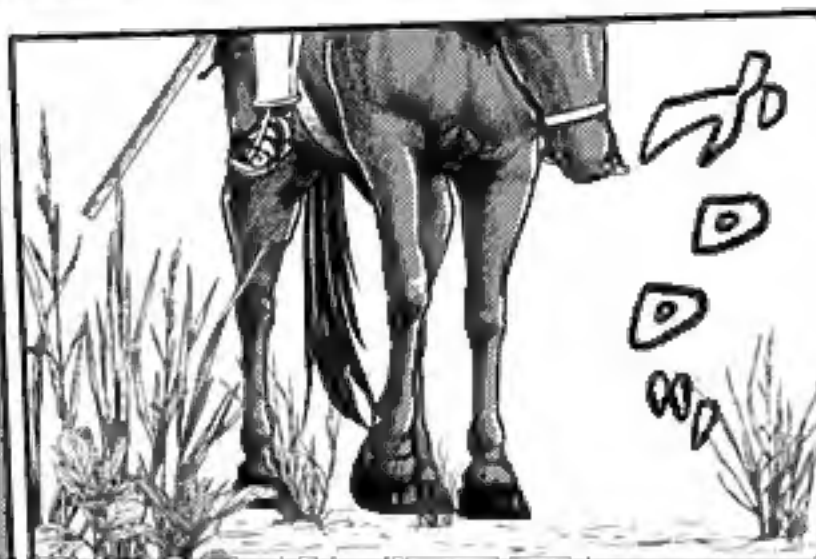
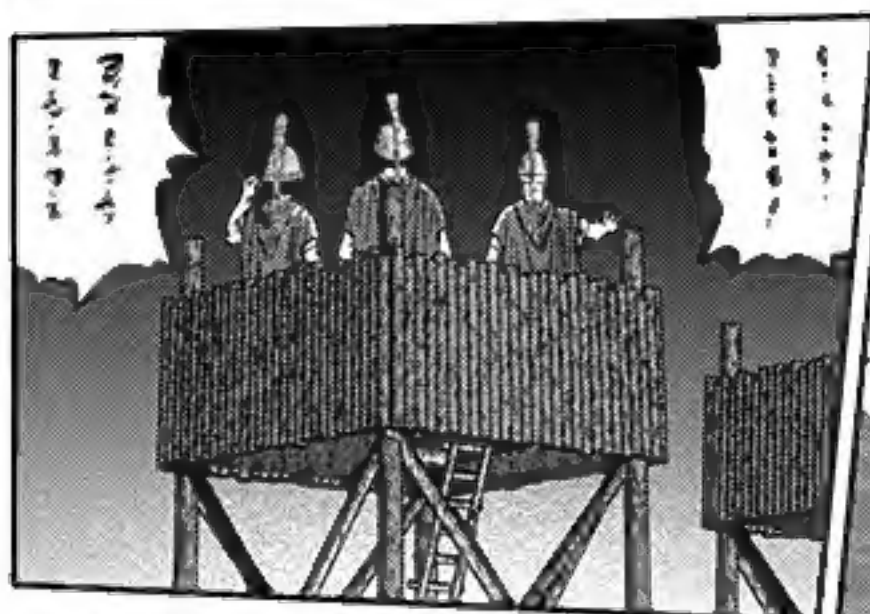
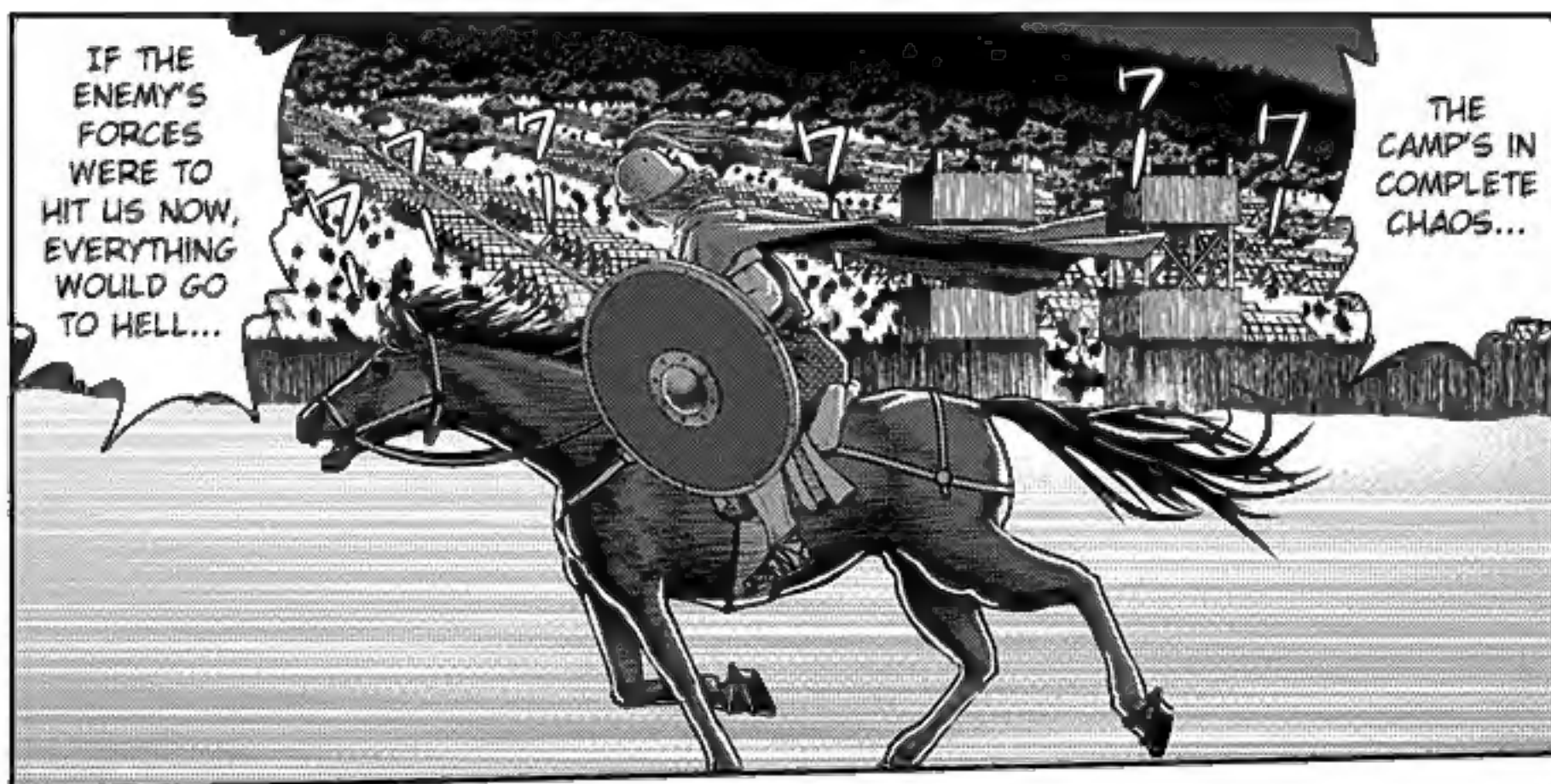
UWAAH!
HERE
COMES
ONE OF
THEM!

IT'S
MOVING
AROUND
SO MUCH
I CAN'T
GET A
SHOT
AT IT!



CURSES!
WE'VE
FALLEN
HOOK, LINE
AND SINKER
FOR
HANNIBAL'S
PLOY!









WHAT
WAS TRULY
IMPORTANT
WAS THE
FACT THAT
THIS SCHEME
ORIGINATED
FROM
HANNIBAL.



IT IS HIGHLY
UNLIKELY
THAT DICTATOR
FABIUS WOULD
HAVE STEPPED
FOOT OUTSIDE
HIS CAMP.

CONSIDER
THE SITUATION
FROM THE
ENEMY'S POINT
OF VIEW.



IT IS
SOMETHING
THAT ONE
WOULD ONLY
TURN TO
AS A LAST
RESORT.

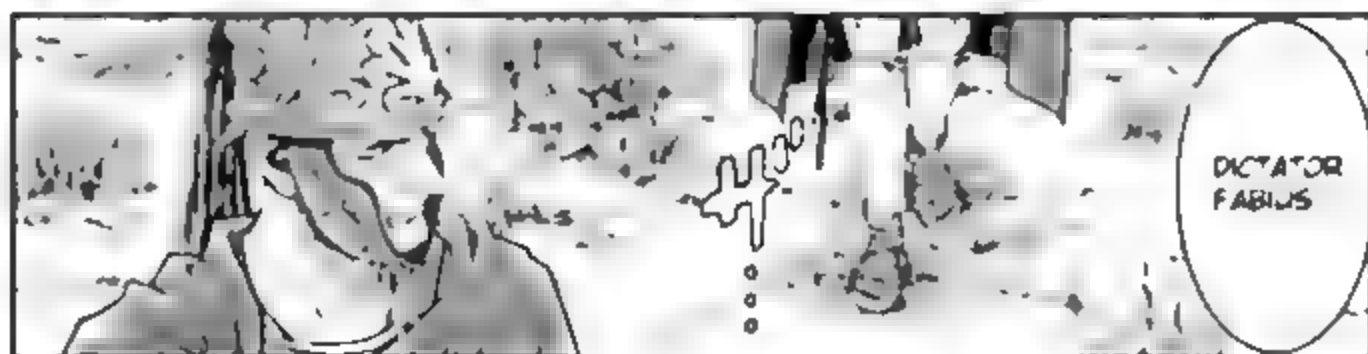


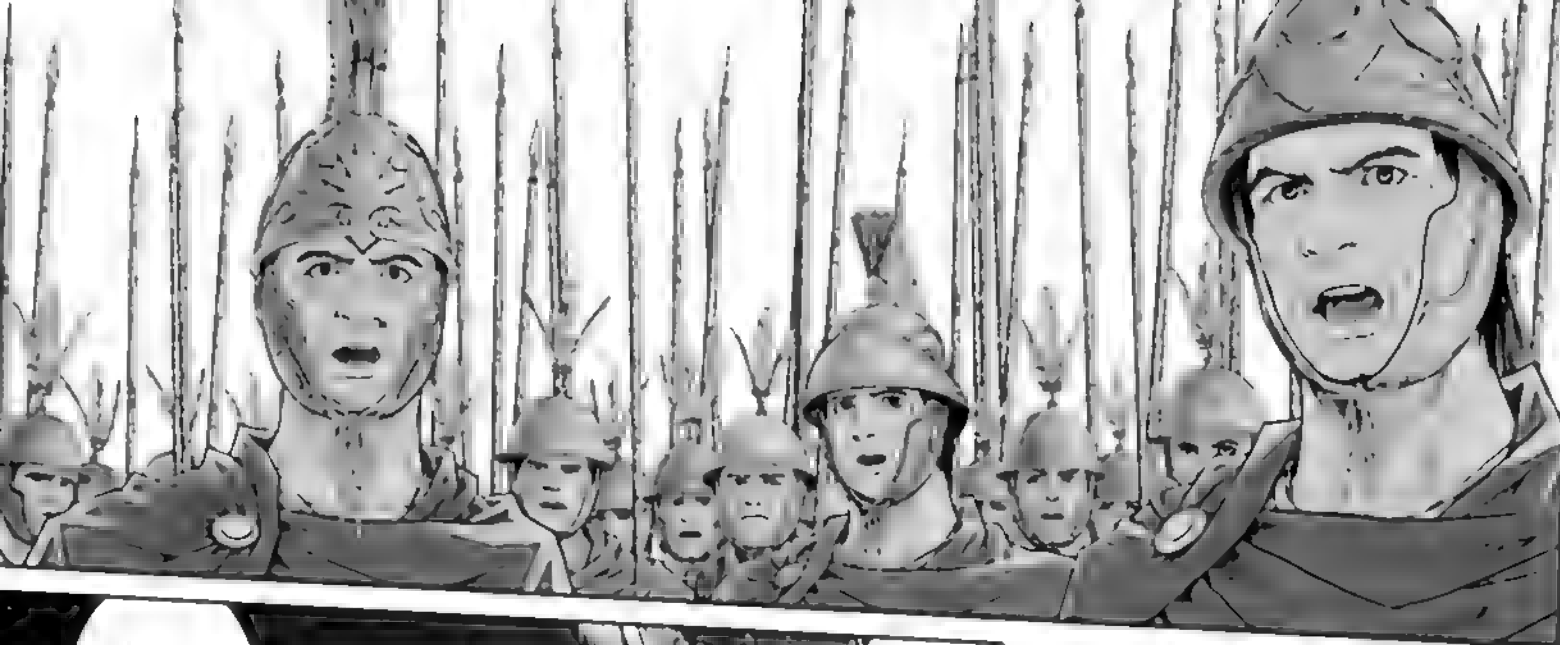
AFTER
ALL, THIS
STRATEGY
OF ATTRITION
DEvised BY
HIM THAT
CORNERED
US...

WAS BORN
FROM HIM
UNDERSTANDING
HOW WEAK THE
ROMAN POSITION
WAS, AND HOW
STRONG WE
ARE.









WHAT IS THE
GOAL THAT
THE CORNERED
HANNIBAL WOULD
DESIRE MOST
OF ALL?

THERE
MUST
BE A
REASON
FOR IT

FOR A
MAN LIKE
HANNIBAL TO
LET SUCH
A PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
SLIP BY



FROM
HERE THE
CAMPANIAN
PLAINS

TO ESCAPE
FROM HIS
PRISON...



EVEN
THOUGH
OUR CAMP
DESCENDED
INTO UTTER
CHAOS.

FOR SOME
REASON
HANNIBAL DID
NOT APPEAR
TO STRIKE US
DURING OUR
MOMENT OF
WEAKNESS



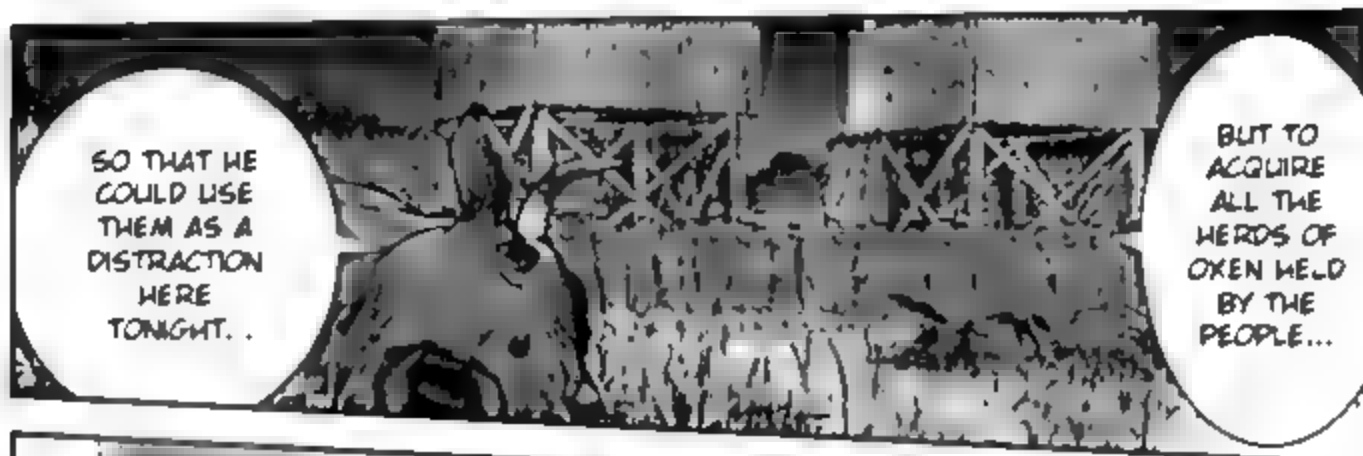
HAS
ALREADY
ENDED?

THIS
BATTLE
...





HE ATTACKED
ALL THOSE
SETTLEMENTS
NOT TO PILLAGE
FOOD SO THAT
HE COULD LAST
THROUGH THE
WINTER,



SO THAT HE
COULD USE
THEM AS A
DISTRACTION
HERE
TONIGHT. .

BUT TO
ACQUIRE
ALL THE
HERDS OF
OXEN HELD
BY THE
PEOPLE...



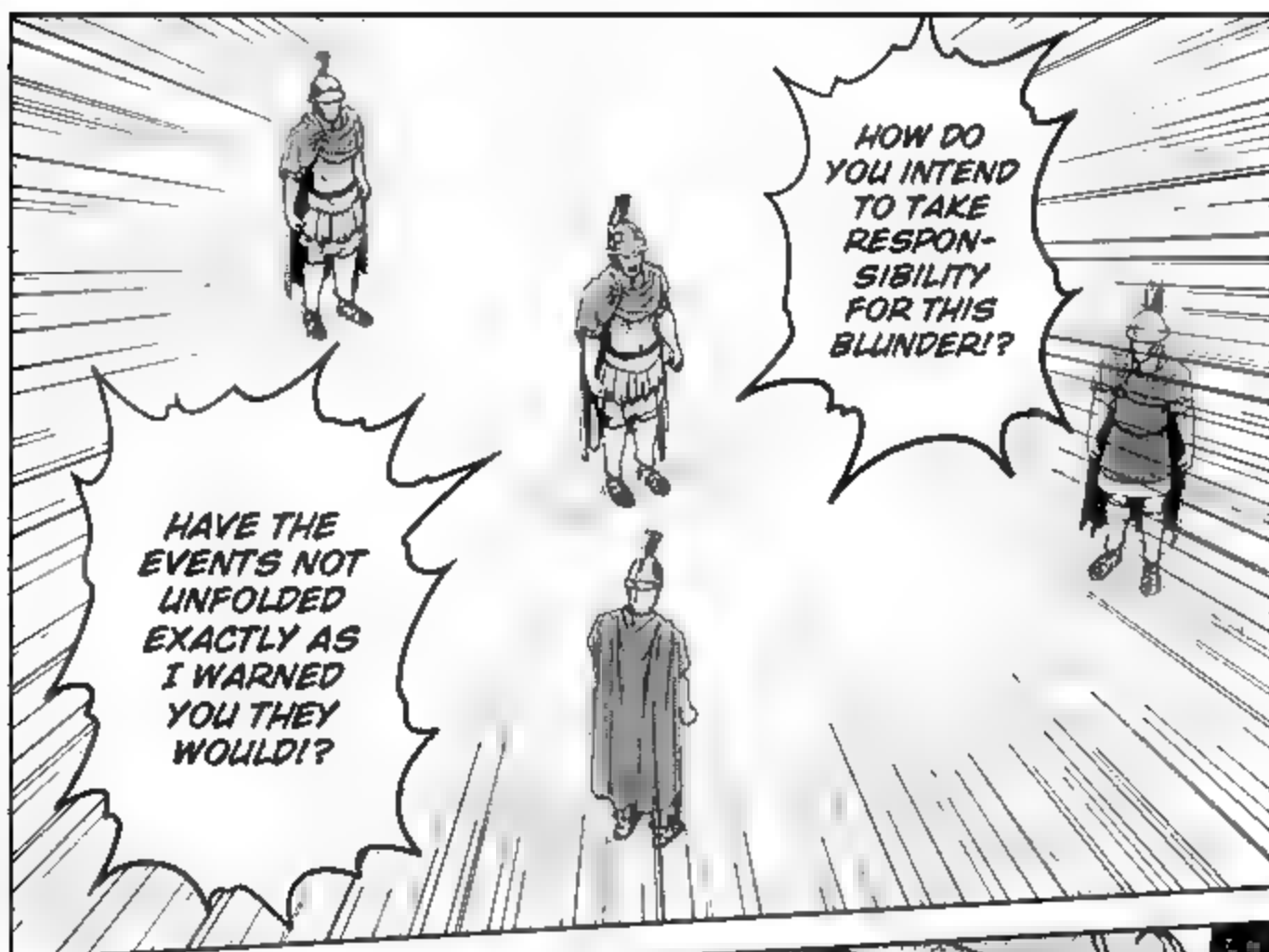
AND BY THE
TIME WE HAD
CAUGHT ON,
IT WAS
ALREADY
OVER.

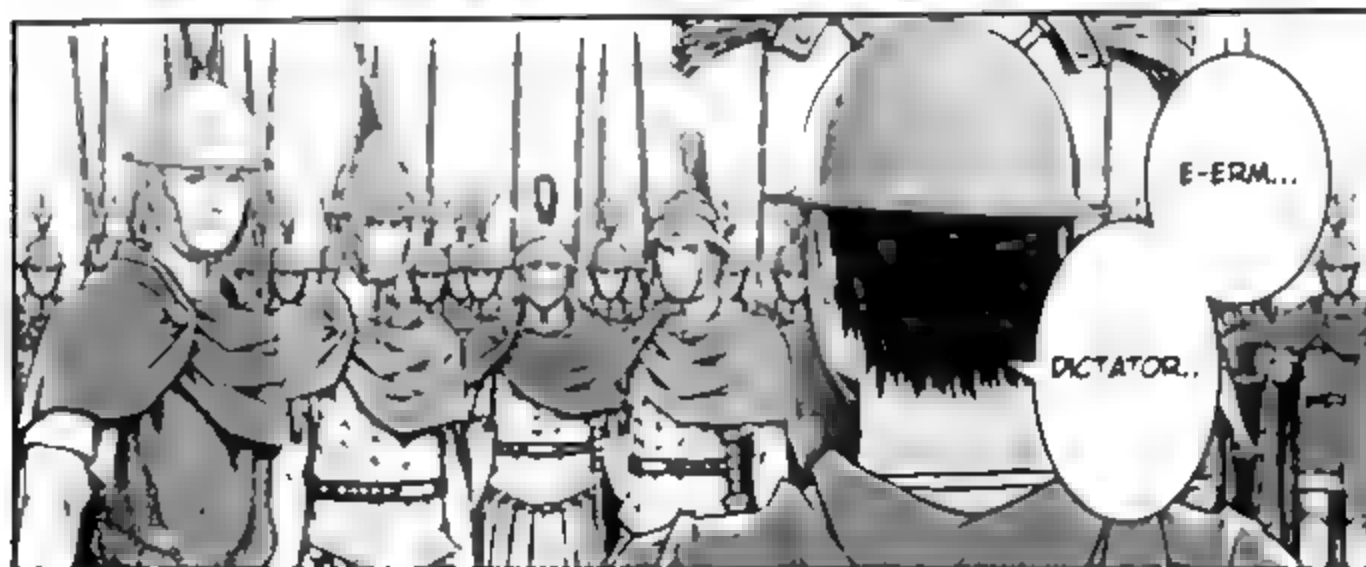
THE BATTLE
HAD ALREADY
BEGUN
WITHOUT
US EVEN
REALISING...



**SERVES
YOU
RIGHT...**

THIS IS THE
RESULT OF
CONTINUOUSLY
RUNNING AWAY
FROM BATTLE,
FABIUS...











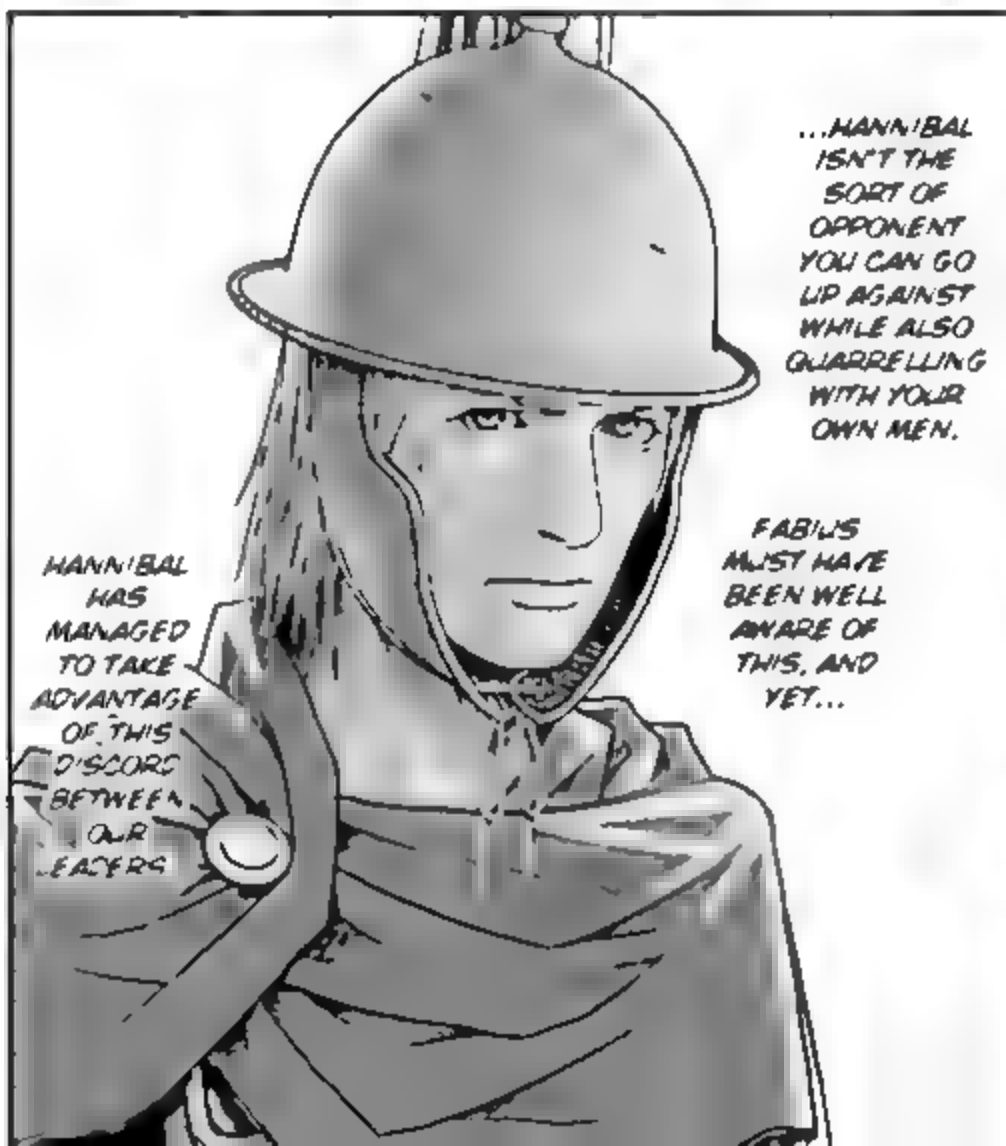
...BUT THAT
STILL DOESN'T
CHANGE THE FACT
THAT MARCHING
OUT TO ENGAGE
HANNIBAL WAS
THE CORRECT
DECISION.

I-I SEE
HOW IT IS
YOU PLAN ON
BRUSHING
YOUR OWN
FAILURE
UNDER THE
CARPET,
AND
INSTEAD,
USE ME
AS A
SCAPEGOAT?



THEY
WERE NOT
MISTAKEN
IN THE
LEAST.

MY ACTIONS
WERE SIMPLY
TO PROD A
COWARD INTO
FINALLY TAKING
ACTION AGAINST
HANNIBAL.



HANNIBAL
HAS
MANAGED
TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF THIS
DISCORD
BETWEEN
OUR
LEADERS

...HANNIBAL
ISN'T THE
SORT OF
OPPONENT
YOU CAN GO
UP AGAINST
WHILE ALSO
QUARRELLING
WITH YOUR
OWN MEN.

FABIUS
MUST HAVE
BEEN WELL
AWARE OF
THIS, AND
YET...







